



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

# SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT OFFICE

715 P Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor | Sacramento, CA 95814 | P.O. Box 942836 | Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

December 29, 2021

*Transmitted via email*

South Tahoe Public Utilities District  
ATTN: Ivo Bergsohn  
1275 Meadow Crest Drive  
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

RE: Response to Letter Request for Guidance due to Impact of Emergencies;  
Alternative Plan for the Tahoe Valley South Subbasin (6-005.01)

Dear Mr. Bergsohn,

On behalf of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Office at the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), thank you for your recent letter, dated December 17, 2021, describing your progress toward, and proposed schedule to complete, the update to the Alternative Plan for the Tahoe Valley South Subbasin (Alternative Plan Update). DWR acknowledges the challenges your community has endured from the global outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and the catastrophic Caldor Wildfire, which was declared a state of emergency in El Dorado County by Governor Newsom on August 17, 2021. We recognize your leadership to continue working diligently to prepare your Alternative Plan Update given these historic challenges and we commend your steadfast commitment to manage groundwater sustainably.

DWR supports the central tenet of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) which is local control. In your letter you highlight concerns over the ability to submit the Alternative Plan Update to DWR by the statutory deadline of January 1, 2022. Despite the challenges of both COVID-19 and the Caldor Wildfire, local agencies, such as yours, are continuing to provide their best efforts to ensure stakeholder engagement and oversight of activities in the public's interest. We appreciate that you have outlined the next steps of what a feasible schedule looks like for your groundwater sustainability agency to complete and submit the Alternative Plan Update, including robust engagement with your Stakeholder Advisory Group.

The alternative submittal process and deadline is specifically identified in SGMA. If a local agency does not submit an alternative by the statutory deadline, DWR is required to consult with the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) on the status of the subbasin. DWR cannot suspend or change submittal deadlines. Based on the statements made in your December 17, 2021 letter indicating you will not meet the submission deadline of January 1, 2022, we will enter into consultation with the State

Water Board. While in consultation, we will keep the State Water Board apprised of your progress to submit the Alternative Plan Update within your proposed schedule. DWR values the working partnership with water managers in your subbasin, which have been established through continued dialogue and dedication to the long-term, sustainable management of groundwater.

Please feel free to contact myself or our GSP Manager Craig Altare ([Craig.Altare@water.ca.gov](mailto:Craig.Altare@water.ca.gov)).

Sincerely,

*Paul Gosselin*  
Paul Gosselin  
Deputy Director, Sustainable Groundwater Management

cc:

Margaret Katy Janes, California Department of Water Resources  
Kenneth Payne, El Dorado County Water Agency  
Gary Kvistad, Brownstein, Hyatt, Faber and Schreck  
John Thiel, General Manger, South Tahoe Public Utility District  
James Nachbaur, State Water Resources Control Board